



## Workforce Policy Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

September 13, 2024

**National Policy Pulse Call.** LeadingAge’s members-only briefing and analysis call with our experts, “National Policy Pulse,” happens every Monday at 3:30 p.m. ET. Register for the calls (registration required even if you were registered for the previous 3:30pm policy update calls) [here](#). Your registration will keep you on the list for all calls in 2024, and we’ll send a new registration link to members for calls in 2025 so you never miss a beat.

**LeadingAge Releases “The Immigration Imperative” paper.** Aging service providers are seeking new and innovative approaches to strengthen and build America’s long-term care workforce—including reforms to our outdated and inefficient approach to legal immigration. This issue is one of the most critical for LeadingAge members and we are thrilled to announce the release of our latest white paper, [The Immigration Imperative](#). This paper offers a timely and relevant overview of current issues followed by practical recommendations on policy changes that will help to increase the pipeline of foreign-born long-term care workers in the U.S.—and create a foundation for them to thrive in our member communities. Our press released on this important LeadingAge product and priority can be found [here](#).

**State of Texas Requests Consolidation of Lawsuits Challenging CMS Minimum Staffing Standard:** On September 10 the State of Texas filed an [unopposed motion](#) seeking to consolidate its lawsuit challenging the CMS staffing standard, which the State filed August 14, into the suit in which LeadingAge is a co-plaintiff. Among other factors, the motion notes that both suits are filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, and that there is substantial similarity between the facts and legal issues in both lawsuits. The State’s motion proposes that our first-filed suit would be the lead case and that the parties would adhere to the schedule already in place for submitting briefs, which would preserve the existing, court-approved timeline. The court has not yet ruled, but we have updated our [Nursing Home Staffing Mandates Serial Post](#) to reflect the filing.

**CHCS Releases Brief Outlining CA Medicaid Struggles to Compensate Providers for Travel:** The Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) assessed reimbursement for some Medi-Cal services and found programmatic limitations hindering growth in service utilization. Medi-Cal is California’s Medicaid program providing healthcare. Because Medi-Cal doesn’t cover long-term services and supports (LTSS), the brief didn’t directly assess provider reimbursements in the LTSS arena. The brief alludes to correlation of provider rates with the ability and willingness of providers to participate in the reviewed service categories for Medicaid. Authors suggest ways in which California can amend service definitions and limitations to better optimize time and money spent traveling to distant participants or ways the state and managed care companies could implement financial incentives for more rural providers with higher transportation cost burden. This brief could help inform your local advocacy for rate increases or payment for transportation as a portion of the rate as a community-based provider. Read the full publication [here](#).

**OSHA Publishes Additional Work-Related Injury and Illness Data.** On September 4, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) launched a [Severe Injury Report dashboard](#) that allows users to search its severe injury report database and view trends related to workplace injuries occurring in states covered by federal OSHA. The dashboard is searchable by year, industry, state, and establishment name, and includes data on severe injuries reported by employers covered under federal OSHA from January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2023. This follows OSHA’s release in April 2024 of [injury and](#)

[illness data](#) submitted by establishments from their OSHA Form 300A, as well as selected data from the more detailed Form 300 Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses and Form 301 Injury and Illness Incident Report. We encourage LeadingAge members to review these public data, to become familiar with what information is available about your organizations and, if needed, to review it for accuracy.

**August Jobs Report Released.** On Friday, September 6, the Department of Labor (DOL) released [its August jobs report](#) revealing the United States added 142,000 jobs and unemployment decreased slightly from 4.3% from 4.2%. The report also included downward revisions to prior jobs reports: June numbers were adjusted to 61,000 from the previously reported 118,000 and July was adjusted to 89,000, 25,000 lower than initially reported. The majority of job gains were concentrated in two sectors: construction, which added 34,000 positions, and health care, which saw a similar increase in payrolls. Average hourly earnings, which indicate wage growth, increased by 0.4% last month. Over the past year, they have risen by 3.8%.

**Last Week's Recap Update:** Here is the September 5, 2024 [Workforce Update](#).